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SENATE MEMORIAL 65

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Stuart Ingle

A MEMORIAL

LAUDING THE LIFE OF OSCAR ACOSTA AND EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCE
OF THE SENATE ON HIS UNTIMELY DEATH.

WHEREAS, Oscar Acosta was born March 21, 1957 in Portales
and grew up in Elida, graduating from Elida high school; and

WHEREAS, Oscar was the proud son of Juan and Concha
Acosta, who came to the United States from Mexico in the 1950s
as part of a federal program that solicited workers to build
railroads; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, at Lubbock Christian college, Oscar was
named an all-American pitcher by the national association of
intercollegiate athletics; and

WHEREAS, he played minor league baseball for three years
with the Philadelphia Phillies and one year in the Mexican
league before a torn rotator cuff ended his pitching career;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, he began his professional coaching career in 1988
3 in the minor leagues, working for the Texas Rangers and the New
4 York Yankees organizations and the Columbus Clippers of the
5 international league, and he moved to the major league as a
6 pitching coach for the Chicago Cubs in 2000 and 2001 and for
7 the Texas Rangers in 2002; and

8 WHEREAS, while with the Chicago Cubs, he helped to turn
9 around one of the national league's worst pitching staffs and
10 in 2001, his pitchers set a major league record with one
11 thousand three hundred four strikeouts; and

12 WHEREAS, he rejoined the Yankee's organization in 2004 as
13 manager of its Gulf Coast League team where his skills netted
14 the team league championships in 2004 and 2005 and earned him
15 the title "Manager of the Year" in 2004; and

16 WHEREAS, he and Humberto Trejo were tragically killed in
17 an automobile accident on April 19, 2006 while they were on a
18 scouting trip to the Dominican Republic; and

19 WHEREAS, Oscar Acosta was a tough, intense coach who
20 taught his pitchers mental toughness and how to be mentally
21 prepared for the game; and

22 WHEREAS, while Oscar loved baseball and the young men he
23 coached, his greatest love was his family; and

24 WHEREAS, Oscar Acosta was a man molded by the hard life of
25 rural poverty, steeped in the values of Old Mexico and the

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1 eastern plains of New Mexico, and he held dear the lessons he
2 learned from his parents and his community about the value of
3 persistence and hard work and the importance of respect and
4 love of family;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
6 OF NEW MEXICO that New Mexico's native son, Oscar Acosta, be
7 recognized for his many accomplishments; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that heartfelt condolences be
9 extended to the family and friends of Oscar Acosta; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
11 transmitted to his wife, Kathy, and his children, Melissa,
12 Amanda and Ryan.

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